

Message Text

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TO USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA PRIORITY

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GENEVA FOR CSCE

INFO FOR PAOS

1. HIGHLIGHTS. WEDNESDAY PAPERS FEATURED DOMESTIC NEWS;
BALTSUN FRONTPAGE BREZHNEV CRITICIZES US TRADE RESTRIC-
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TIONS. THURSDAY PAPERS FRONTPAGE HOUSE AND SENATE LIMIT

TURKISH AID ANEW. LITTLE FRESH COMMENT.

1A. WEDNESDAY THURSDAY NYTIMES EACH HAD BRIEF SALT ITEMS. THURSDAY NYTIMES INSIDE HAS PENTAGON BELIEVES NUCLEAR WAR WOULDN'T CUT OZONE TO POINT OF ENDANGERING ALL LIFE. THURSDAY PAPERS ALSO REPORT SOVIET BLAST, AND SIMON RETURNED FROM RUSSIA SAYING PRESIDENT MUST DECIDE ABOUT GRAIN SALE. THURSDAY WASHPOST REPORTS EAST BLOC AND EEC TO HOLD TALKS. PAPERS ALSO REPORT SCHLESINGER SEEKS MORE ARMY DIVISIONS.

2. SALT. WEDNESDAY NYTIMES HAD GENEVA REUTERS SAYING US AND SOVIET UNION STEPPED UP NUCLEAR ARMS NEGOTIATIONS AND AGREED TO MEET WEDNESDAY INSTEAD OF FRIDAY IN A DEPARTURE FROM ROUTINE. THURSDAY NYTIMES HAS GENEVA SPECIAL REPORTING NEGOTIATIONS ON TEN-YEAR PACT TO LIMIT OFFENSIVES HAVE BEEN INTERRUPTED FOR ONE WEEK TO PERMIT JOHNSON TO FLY TO WASHINGTON FOR CONSULTATIONS, THIS ADJOURNMENT BEING ANNOUNCED BY A US SPOKESMAN AFTER A MEETING OF THE DELEGATIONS. SPECIAL ADDS JOHNSON'S RETURN IS SEEN AS PART OF THE PREPARATIONS FOR KISSINGER'S VISIT NEXT WEEK TO MOSCOW.

3. EAST-WEST. WEDNESDAY BALTSUN PARKS MOSCOW REPORTED BREZHNEV HARSHLY CRITICIZED US RESTRICTIONS ON TRADE AS SERIOUSLY UNDERMINING DETENTE, PARKS SAYING BREZHNEV'S ATTACK ON US TRADE POLICIES AND EFFORTS TO USE TRADE TO PRY POLITICAL CONCESSIONS FROM MOSCOW WAS HIS MOST BITTER CASTIGATION OF US IN SEVERAL YEARS AND MAY REPRESENT A RETHINKING OF THE MEANING OF DETENTE AS MUCH AS FRUSTRATION OVER WASHINGTON'S FAILURE TO RELAX THE TRADE RESTRICTIONS. PARKS SAID THE BITING CRITICISM MADE IT CLEAR KREMLIN FEELS THAT LIMITED TRADE MEANS LIMITED POLITICAL RAPPROCHEMENT AND THAT MOSCOW SEES TRADE FAILURE AS RENEGING ON SOLEMN COMMITMENTS.

3A. THURSDAY WASHPOST RAMSEY BRUSSELS SAID IN LONG PIECE THAT RELAXATION IN ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN EAST AND WEST IN EUROPE FOR FIRST TIME SINCE CREATION OF EEC IS UNCLASSIFIED

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EVIDENCED BY EEC AUTHORIZATION OF HIGH LEVEL CONTACTS WITH EQUIVALENT EAST EUROPEAN ECONOMIC GROUP OFFICIALS AND BY LAST WEEK'S DEVELOPMENT IN UN WHERE BOTH EEC AND COMECON WERE GRANTED OBSERVER STATUS. RAMSEY SAID WHEELS HAVE ALSO REPORTEDLY BEEN SET IN MOTION TO PROCURE SOVIET RECOGNITION OF THE EEC, POSSIBLY IN RESPONSE TO RUMORS THAT CHINA IS ABOUT TO RECOGNIZE EEC.

3B. THURSDAY PAPERS HAVE WASHINGTON AP REPORTING THAT SEISMIC SIGNALS, PRESUMABLY FROM A SOVIET UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR EXPLOSION, WERE RECORDED YESTERDAY, ACCORDING TO AEC WHICH SAID THIS SEMIPALATINSK TEST IS FIFTH PRESUMED RUSSIAN TEST THIS YEAR, WHEREAS US HAS ANNOUNCED SIX WEAPONS-RELATED TESTS THIS YEAR. WASHPOST ALSO HAS SQUIB SAYING SOVIET UNION ANNOUNCED RESUMPTION OF ROCKET TESTS IN PACIFIC AND WARNED SHIPS TO STAY CLEAR OF TESTING AREA NORTHWEST OF MIDWAY ISLAND.

4. HARRIS SURVEY. MONDAY'S CHICAGO TRIBUNE HAD HARRIS SURVEY ON JOB BEING DONE BY PRESIDENT FORD WHICH REPORTED THAT PRESIDENT'S OVER-ALL RATING IS DOWN 18 PERCENT DURING PRECEDING MONTH. COMPARING EARLY-SEPTEMBER AND LATE-SEPTEMBER RATINGS, SURVEY SAYS RESPONDENTS GAVE PRESIDENT A FAVORABLE RATING ON THE JOB THEY EXPECT PRESIDENT TO DO IN NEXT TWO YEARS ON WORKING FOR PEACE IN THE WORLD -- 57 PERCENT POSITIVE TO 31 PERCENT NEGATIVE -- BUT THIS IS A DECLINE FROM THE EARLY-SEPTEMBER RATING OF

69 TO 18. DURING SAME PERIOD HOPE THAT FORD WILL IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA HAS SLIPPED FROM 59 PERCENT POSITIVE AND 21 PERCENT NEGATIVE TO 42 PERCENT POSITIVE AND 37 PERCENT NEGATIVE.

5. SCHLESINGER. BALTSUN HAS WASHINGTON AP REPORTING SCHLESINGER, ADDRESSING ASSOCIATION OF THE US ARMY, WARNED AGAINST FURTHER DEFENSE CUTBACKS, AND NOTED THAT FOR THE CRITICAL TASK OF NATO REINFORCEMENT THE ARMY REMAINS ONLY marginally ADEQUATE TO MAKE ITS CONTRIBUTION IN LIGHT OF THE CONTINUING BUILDUP OF FORCES BY THE SOVIET UNION IN EUROPE. WASHPOST GETLER ADDS THAT SCHLESINGER ALSO EXPOUNDED ONE OF HIS FAVORITE THEMES -- THAT PARITY

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IN NUCLEAR-TIPPED MISSILES REQUIRES THAT MORE ATTENTION BE PAID TO THE BALANCE OF CONVENTIONAL FIGHTING FORCES BECAUSE NON-ATOMIC WARFARE IS MOST LIKELY KIND. KISSINGER

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